

Unified Education Strategy (UES) Grant Program

Background

The Unified Education Strategy (UES) Grant Program is a component of the School Diversion and Environmental Education Law ("School DEEL") Program (formerly SB 373, Torlakson).

The purpose of the School DEEL Program is to focus on building and bridging school district waste diversion and resource conservation programs with standards-based instructional strategies.

The principal goals of the Unified Education Strategy, as described in the legislation, are to:

- Coordinate instructional resources and strategies for providing active pupil participation with on-site conservation efforts.
- Promote service-learning opportunities between schools and local communities.
- Assess the impact to participating pupils of the Unified Education Strategy on student achievement and resource conservation.

Grants

The UES grants will be awarded on the basis of a competitive grant process. The goal is for approximately 15 applicants to be awarded grant funds split into two funding cycles—fiscal years 2002/03 and 2003/04.

- The first funding will be awarded in June 2003 at the rate of \$27,000 per grant awarded. This first-year grant is intended to provide grantees with resources to perform research and planning activities for programs that promote waste management and resource conservation and are integrated with instructional strategies focused at the sixth-grade level.

- Each grantee will be required to prepare and submit an implementation plan to the Board by March 2004 which details the steps they will take to implement integrated programs at their school district.

Upon approval of the implementation plans by the Board, each grantee will receive funds from the second cycle in June 2004 in the amount of \$38,000 per grantee to carry out the implementation plan.

Tentative Timeline

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Activity</i>
October 17–18, 2002	Board adopted scoring criteria/evaluation process.
March 2003	Notice of second cycle funding availability.
March–April 8, 2003	Question and answer period.
April 11, 2003	Applications due at CIWMB <u>by 2:00 p.m.</u>
April 2003	Review of applications.
May 2003	Board considers funding recommendations.
June 2003	Grant agreements mailed for signature.
June 2003–June 2004	Grant term—first cycle (\$27,000 each).
June 2004–June 2005	Grant term—second cycle (\$38,000 each).

Applicant and Project Eligibility

The legislation calls for grants to be offered to county offices of education, school districts, and schools. This grant program proposes to focus on school districts that include schools with a sixth-grade population, which could be either middle schools or elementary schools.

Evaluation Criteria

The scoring and evaluation criteria to be used in evaluating grant proposals will include:

- Matching Funds: A 25 percent match in either monetary and/or in-kind services is required.
- Program Sustainability: Applicant must clearly incorporate program sustainability within the implementation plan.

For More Information

The Board's Web site (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/Grants/FY200203/) provides additional information about the UES Grants Program. If you have questions or need more information, please e-mail us at UESGrants@ciwmb.ca.gov, or call (916) 341-6762.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, Flex Your Power and visit www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html.